

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A stretchable laminate comprising:

a nonwoven fabric comprising a fibrous matrix of staple length fibers of about 0.8 to 3.0 denier having a basis weight of about 1.0 to 4.0 ounces per square yard, with a polymeric binder composition substantially uniformly applied to said fibrous matrix; and

an elastomeric composition substantially uniformly applied to said nonwoven fabric web, said elastomeric composition having a thickness of about 0.020 to 0.125 inches.

2. A stretchable laminate in accordance with claim 1, wherein said nonwoven fabric comprises fibers of about 1.5 denier, said web having a basis weight of about 2.5 to 3.5 ounces per square yard.

3. A stretchable laminate in accordance with claim 1, wherein said nonwoven fabric has a machine-direction and a cross-direction, and exhibits at least about 50% extensibility in a cross-direction, and at least about 90% recovery in the cross direction.

4. A stretchable laminate in accordance with claim 3, wherein said nonwoven fabric exhibits a ratio of machine-direction tensile strength to cross-direction tensile strength of about 1:1 to about 3:1.

5. A stretchable laminate in accordance with claim 1, wherein said elastomeric composition is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane and polyvinylchloride.

6. A stretchable laminate in accordance with claim 1, wherein said laminate has a leather-like texture and appearance.

7. A method of making a stretchable laminate, comprising the steps of:

providing a nonwoven web comprising staple length fibers of about 0.8 to 3.0 denier having a basis weight of about 1.0 to 4.0 ounces per square yard;

hydroentangling said nonwoven web;

applying a polymeric binder composition substantially uniformly to said nonwoven web;

drying said nonwoven web to form a nonwoven fabric with said binder composition comprising between about 17% and 31%, by weight, of said acrylic binder, said fabric having a machine direction and a cross-direction, and exhibiting at least about 50% extensibility in said cross-direction, and at least about 90% recovery in the cross-direction; and a ratio of machine direction tensile strength to cross-direction tensile strength of about 1:1 to 3:1; and

applying an elastomeric composition to said nonwoven fabric, said elastomeric composition being selected from the group consisting of polyurethane and polyvinylchloride, and having a thickness of about 0.020 to 0.125 inches.

8. A method of making a stretchable laminate in accordance with claim 7, wherein said stretchable laminate is a furniture cover.

9. A method of making stretchable laminate as in claim 7, wherein said stretchable laminate is a shoe upper.